Designed for Professional Photographers

AlbumExpress 3 Professional

User's Guide

User's Guide
Album Express 3

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1.0 Introduction

Album Express is an image application software that helps making exclusive and premium Photo Album. Album Express is very simple and easy to use. Album Express helps you increase productivity and make big profits because of its ease of operation and the numerous albums, decorations and tools it is bundled with.

This manual user guide will provide guidelines for using the Album Express tools and options included in this package. Description of the various tools and options will be divided into categories like for example, User interface, explanation of commonly and repetitively used options and features, more detailed discussions about the each tools and their specific usage.

Hints and tips will be provided along the way to present ideas of how to get the most from the Album Express and to provide information to use the tools more efficient and easily.

2.0 Getting started and System Requirement

It is very important to set the working environment of Album Express before we actually use it for making our Album pages.

• After the successful installation of Album Express, insert the USB dongle.

• Set the minimum Resolution Monitor to 1024 x 768 pixels

• System Requirement For Album Express.

To use Album Express you must have the following:

A Personal Computer (or comparable laptop),

SVGA monitor (24-bit color at 1024x768 resolution or better)

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS - WINDOWS PLATFORM

• Operating System Windows 2000 Service Pack 4 or higher
• QuickTime 7.1.6 or higher
• 1GB RAM (Recommended 2GB)
• Pentium 4 or higher recommended

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS - MACINTOSH PLATFORM

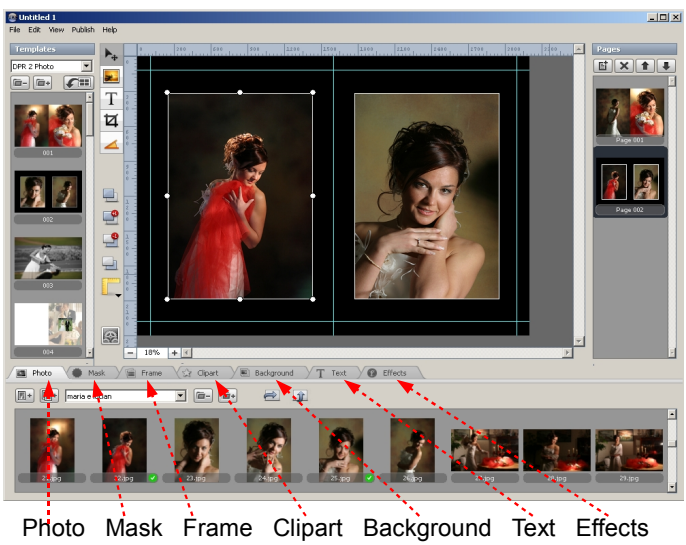
• Operating System Mac OS X 10.3.9 or higher
• 1GB RAM (Recommended 2GB)
• PowerPC G5 or Intel Core Recommended
• HD 40 GB (Recommended SATA 7200RPM Speed)

• Setting the Preference of Album Express.

3.0 Understanding Basics of Album Express

This section of manual is very essential for the end users of Album Express as it explains the basic components and the working of tools.
The Album Express is image application software that helps making creative and exclusive Photo Album pages quickly and easily.
The working environment of Album Express has been designed in a way to match the production requirements of a busy commercial photo lab.
The workflow of Album Program is very simple and easy for any photo lab operator or any amateur user (designer) to understand and work with a professional system. The workflow of Album Express is very simple and fast.

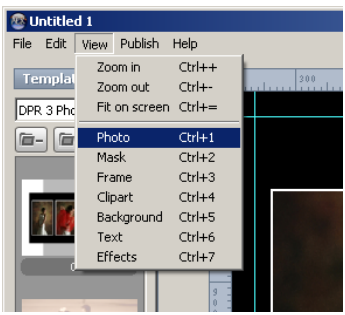
3.1 Workflow of Album Express



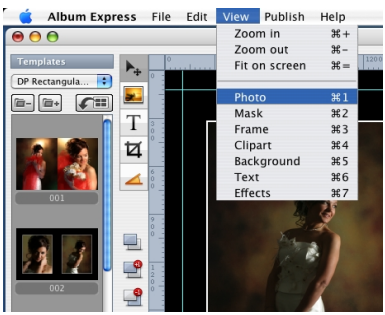
3.2 Seven major sections of Album Express.

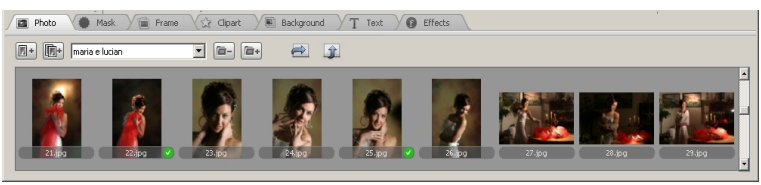
The user interface-starting window of Album Express contains 7 Major sections.
As you start the Album Express, the default user interface window will be in Photo tab.
As shown above the user interface-starting window consist of the following components,

Windows Interface



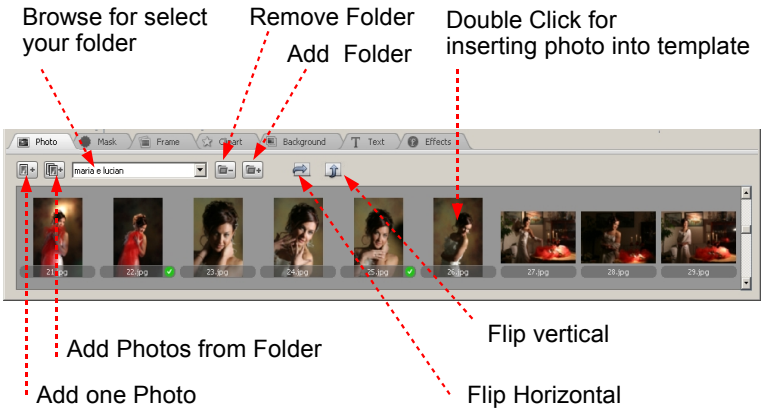
MAC Interface



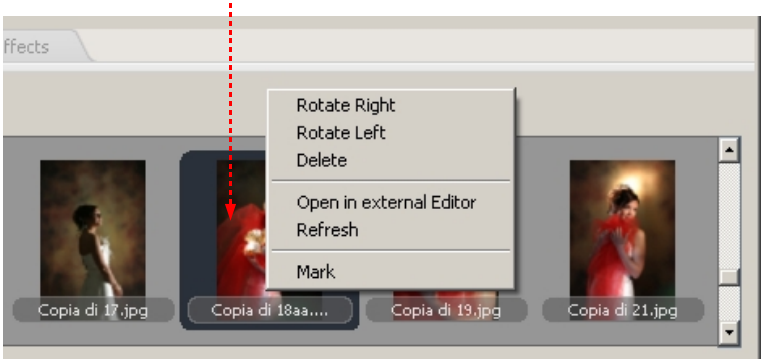


3.2.1 Photo

On starting Album Express, the user interface – starting window appears, wherein the program will be in Photo tab by default.

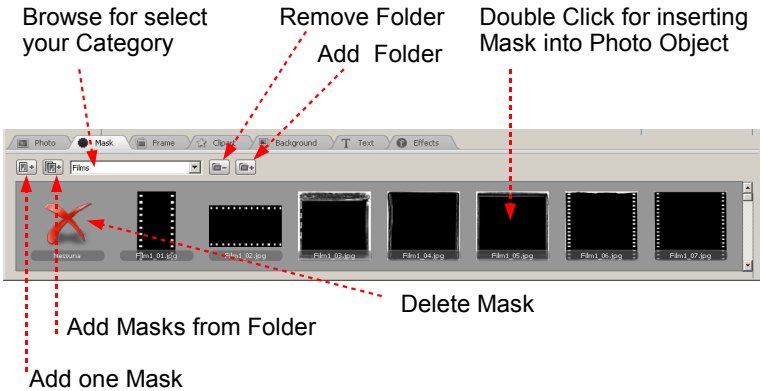


Click on thumbnail with right mouse's button for visualize this Menù

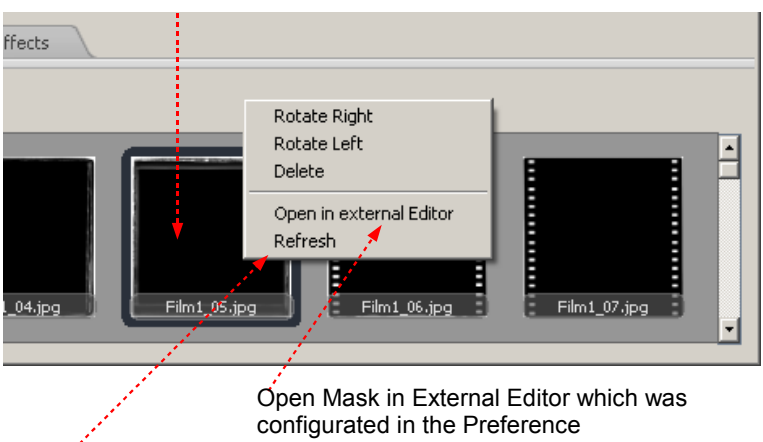


3.2.2 Mask

Display Masks and categories or folders into Mask Gallery

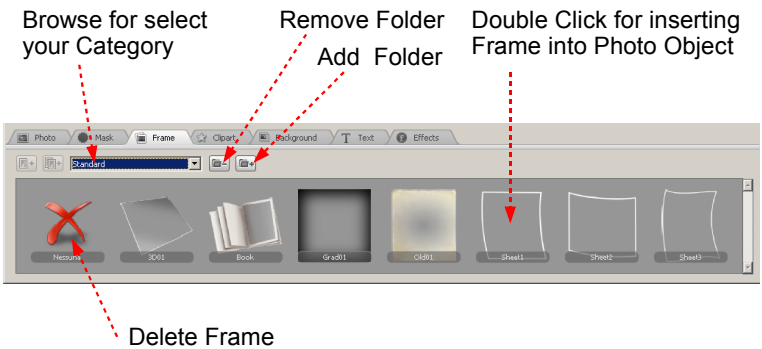


Click on thumbnail with right mouse's button for visualize this Menù

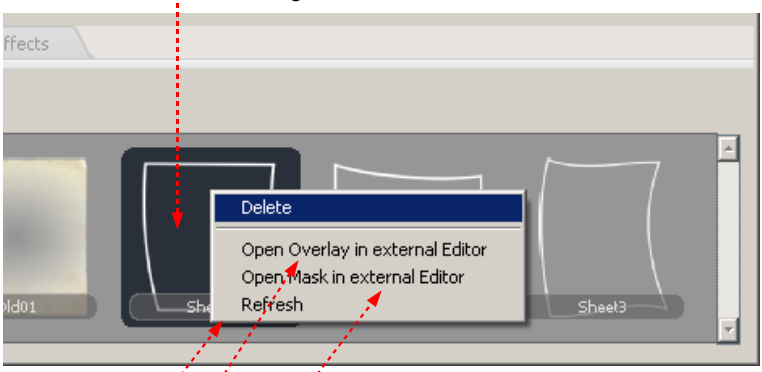


3.2.3 Frame

Display Frames and categories or folders into Frame Gallery



Click on thumbnail with right mouse's button for visualize this Menù



Open Mask in External Editor which was configurated in the Preference

Open Overlay in External Editor which was configurated in the Preference

Update the thumbnail of the file which was modified

3.2.4 Clipart

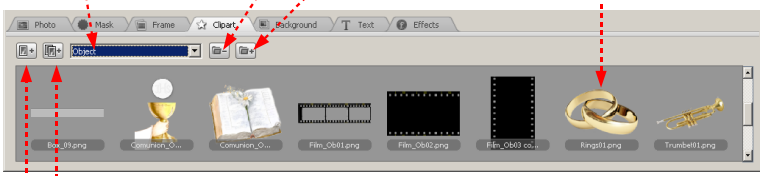
Display Clipart and categories or folders into Clipart Gallery

Browse for select your Category

Remove Folder

Add Folder

Double Click for inserting Clipart into Clipart Object

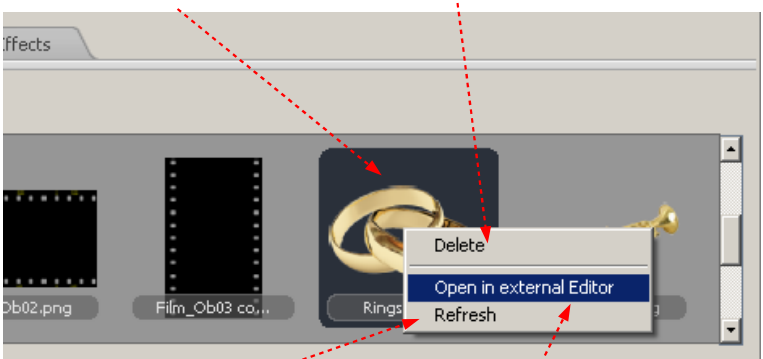


Add Cliparts from Folder

Add one Clipart

Delete Cliparts

Click on thumbnail with right mouse's button for visualize this Menù

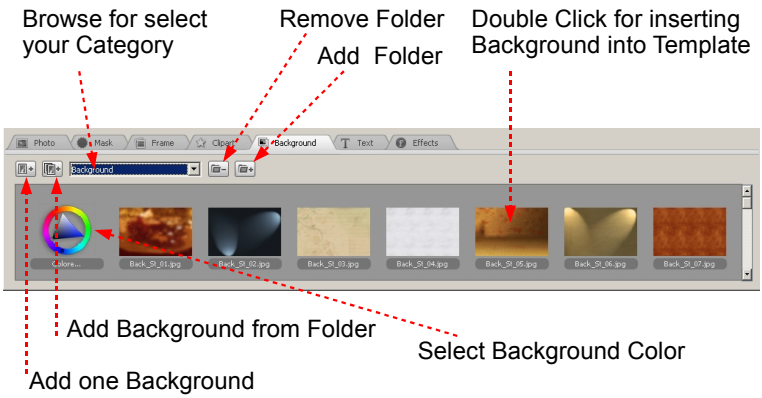


Open Clipart in External Editor which was configurated in the Preference

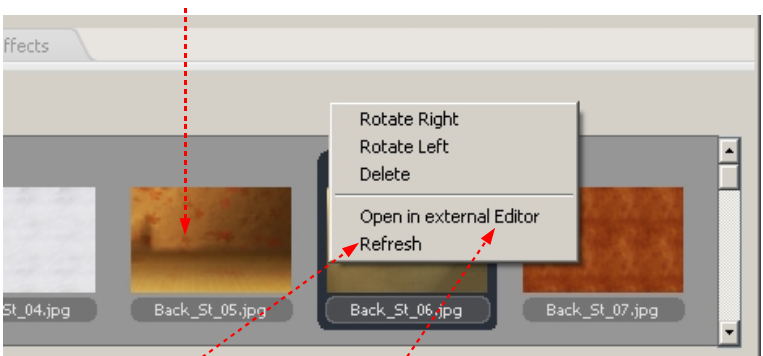
Update the thumbnail of the file which was modified

3.2.5 Background

Display Backgrounds and categories or folders into background Gallery



Click on thumbnail with right mouse's button for visualize this Menù



Open Background in External Editor which was configurated in the Preference

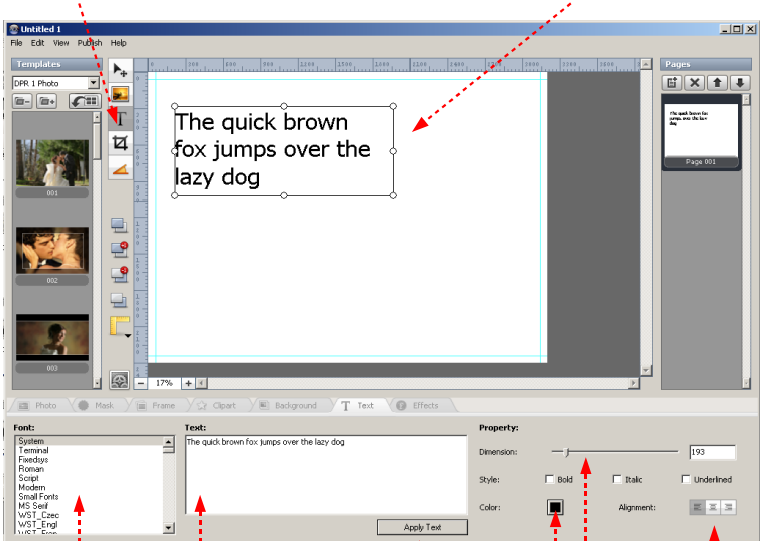
Update the thumbnail of the file which was modified

3.2.6 Text

Display Text and text tool for add text in the current document

Text Tool
Clicking this tool for create Text Object.

Text Object



Alignment

Resize

Insert the Text into Object

In this area enter your text

Text Color

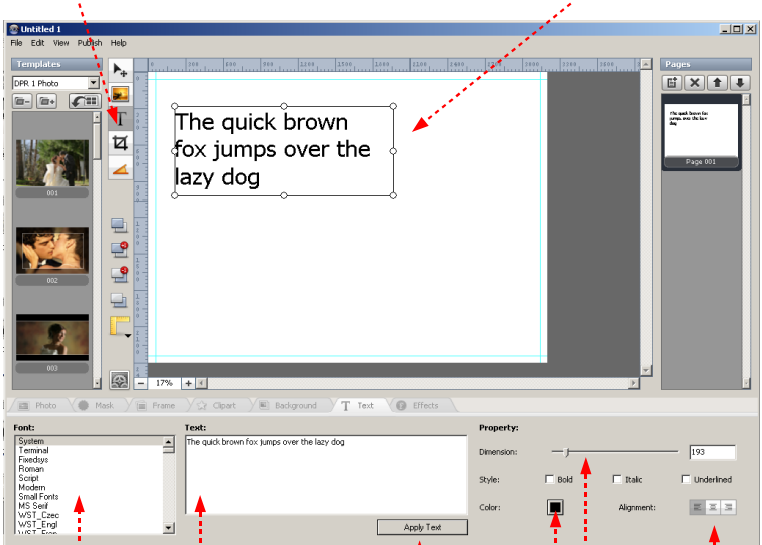
Browse Fonts of your System

3.2.6 Text

Display Text and text tool for add text in the current document

Text Tool
Clicking this tool for create Text Object.

Text Object



Alignment

Insert the Text into Object

Resize

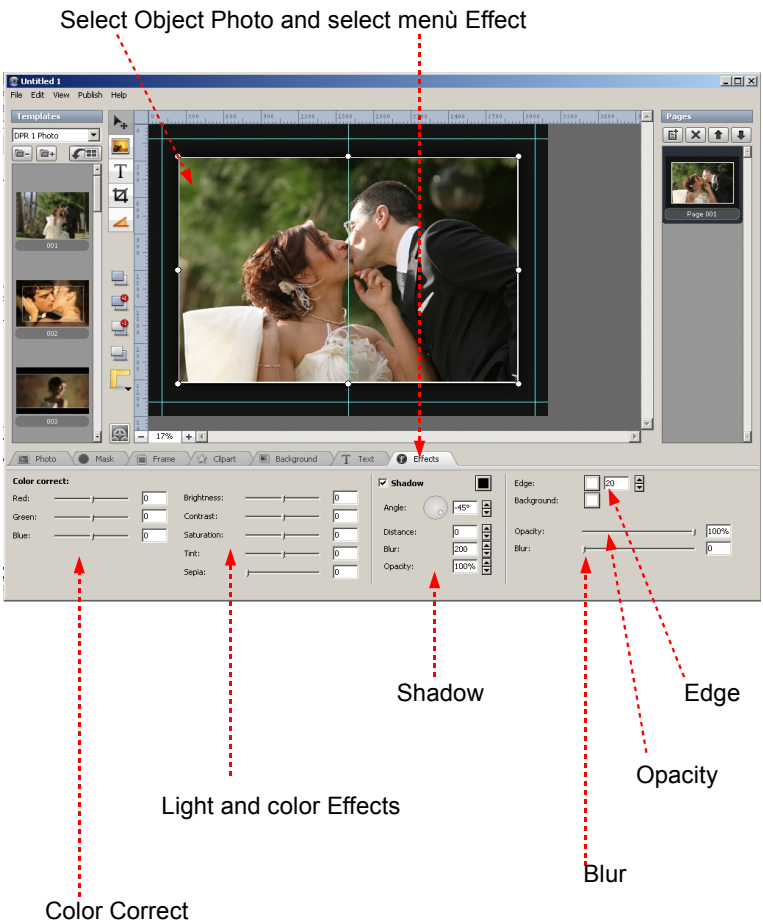
In this area enter your text

Text Color

Browse Fonts of your System

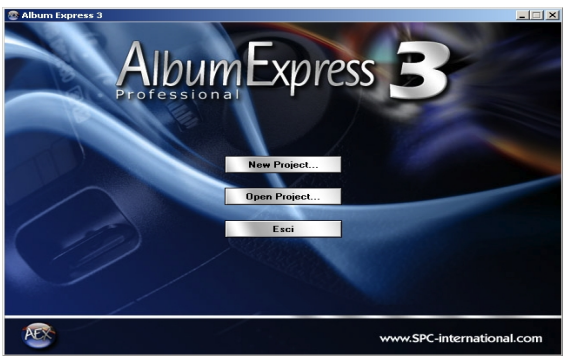
3.2.6 Effects

Display Effects for add effect in the select object

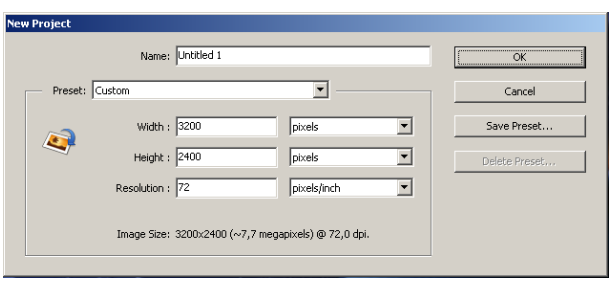


4.0 Project Creation

New Project: This button creates a new Project.
Open Project: This button opens an existing Project.
Exit: This button will close the program.



4.1 Select or create page size



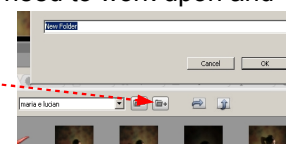
Name: Enter name of project.
Preset: Select preset page size.
Exit: This button will close the program.
Width: Height: Resolution: Original size of your project
Save Preset: Save your size into Preset.
Delete Preset: Delete selected preset.

5.0 Composing and designing an Album Page

5.1 The basic editing under Compose for designing an Album Page.

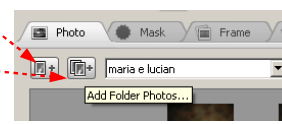
5.1.1 How to add an image(s) to the Album page working area, scale & rotate?

After creating an project as you go to compose for creating and designing your Album Pages you need to work upon and edit the images.



1) create a folder containing photos

2) select the button add a photo or the button to add a folder of photos



To add an image to the current editing Album Page,

1. Select the image by left clicking on it.
2. Hold the left mouse click and drag and drop it on the current editing Album Page.
3. Release the left mouse click.

b) Simply Double click on the image you want to add in the album page.

To place an image in the current editing Album Page,

1. Select the image by left clicking on it.
2. Hold the left mouse click and move the image to place it as intended.
3. Release the left mouse click to place it finally.

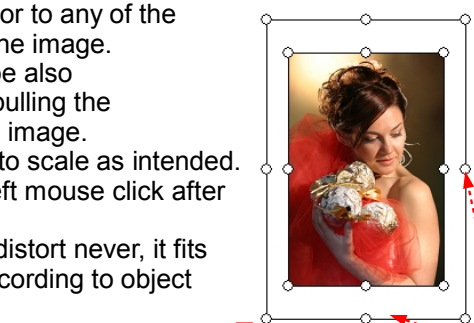
Note: Hold down Shift key from the keyboard to move the image horizontally or vertically in a straight line.

4. You can also use the up, down, left and right arrow keys to move the selected images upwards, downwards, left and right respectively.

To Scale an image in the current editing Album Page,

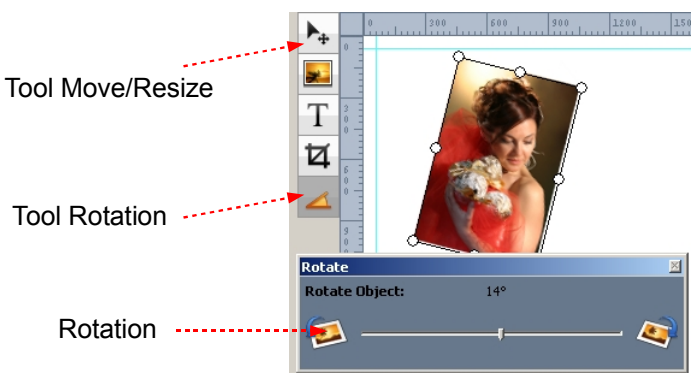
1. Select the image by left clicking on it.
2. Move the cursor to any of the corner point of the image.
The image can be also scaled/skew by pulling the mid-points of the image.
4. Drag and pull to scale as intended.
5. Release the left mouse click after scaling.

Note:The photo distort never, it fits proportionally according to object



To Rotate an image in the current editing

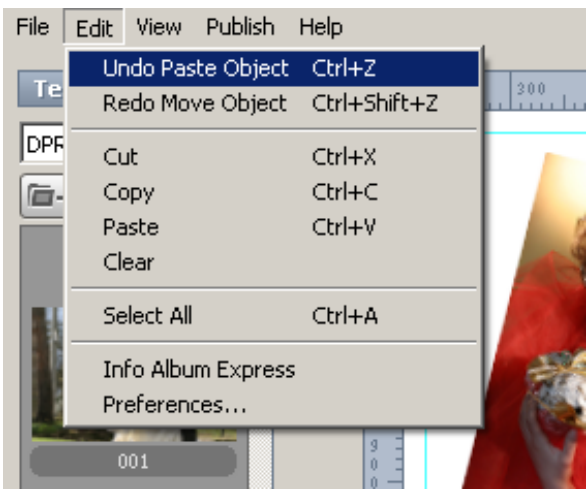
1. Select the image by left clicking on it.
2. Click the tool rotation.
3. Drag cursor and pull to rotate as intended.
4. Release the left mouse
5. Click after tool Move/Resize.



5.1.2 How to duplicate, select/deselect and arrange images?

To duplicate an image in the current editing Album Page,

1. Select the image by left clicking on it.
2. Left click on the menu edit.
3. Select the Copy object.
4. Select the Paste object.



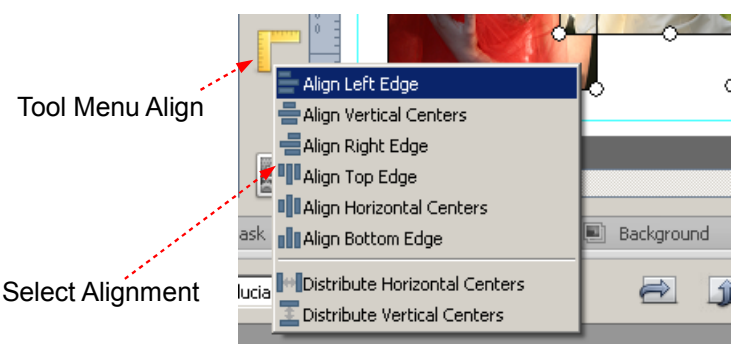
Note: The duplicated image overlaps the original and sticks to it, sometimes you will find that while moving the duplicated image, both the original and the duplicate images moves together as if they are stuck together. In such cases right click and select Remove selection from the context menu and then select the duplicated image to move it aside from the original one.

5.1.3 To arrange object in the current editing Album

1. Select the image by left clicking on it.
2. Click the tool for order the object

5.1.4 To align object in the current editing Album Page,

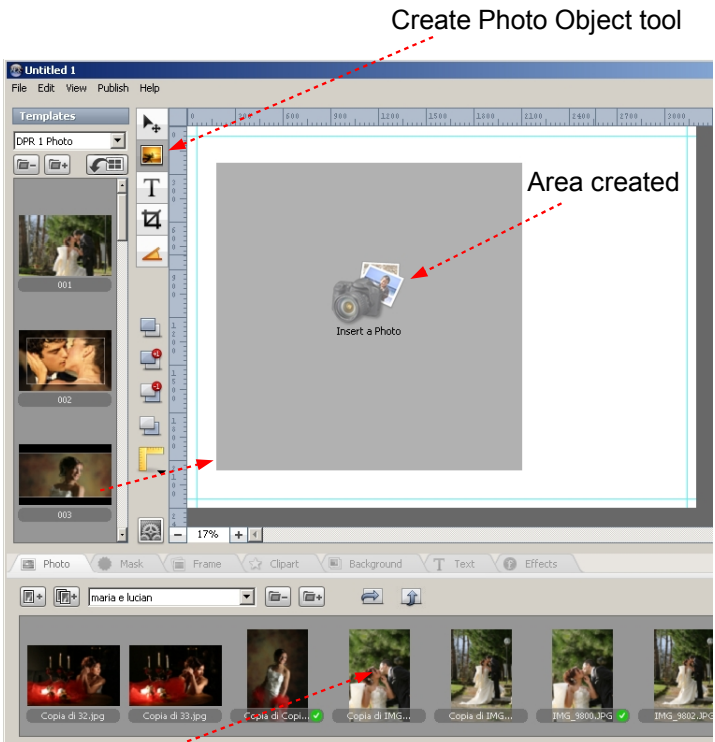
1. Select 2 or more objects by holding down the Shift key



5.1.5 Create Photo Object

To create a photo object in the current editing Album Page,

1. Select the tool Create Photo Object by left clicking on it.
2. Select the area into Template where you want to insert photo.

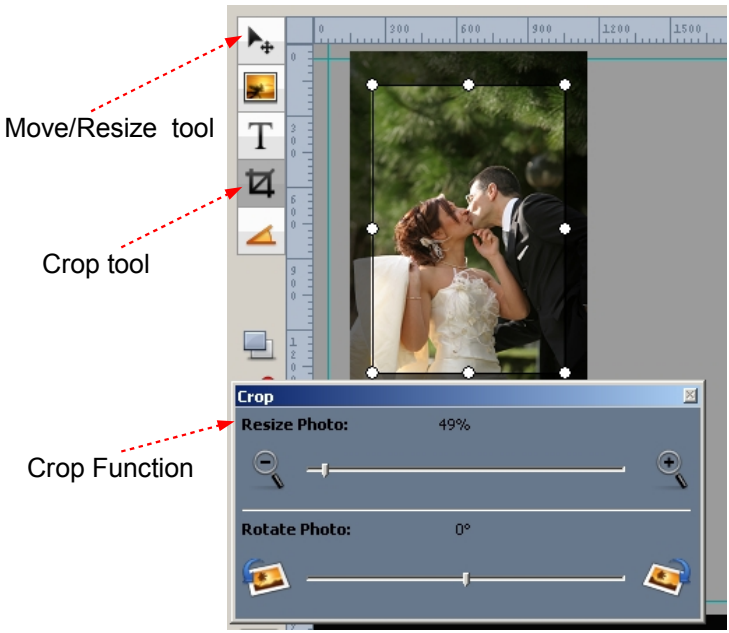


3. Double click on a photo to insert it into created area of photo object

5.1.6 How to crop an image ?

To crop an image in the current editing Album Page,

1. Select the image by left clicking on it.
2. As you select the Crop tool from the context menu the current editing Album Page will change into crop mode.

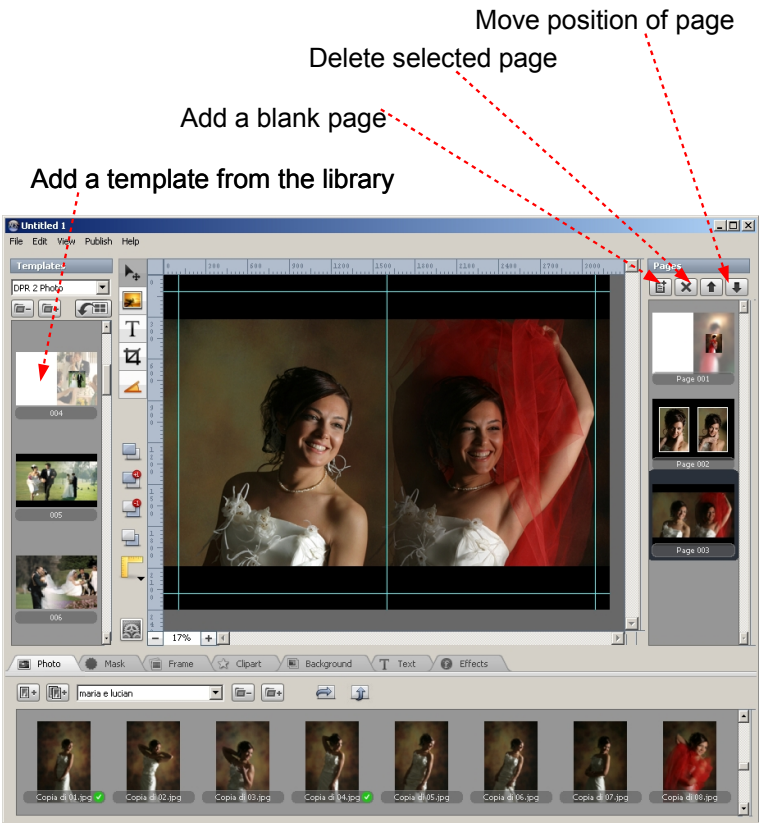


3. To crop the image you can either used the resize and rotate function.
4. When the image was cropped you must select the move/resize tool

5.1.7 How to add/delete and arrange a page in the storyboard?

1. To add a template from the library simply select the category and then double-click on that choice.

2. To add a blank template simply click on Add button Page
3. To rename a page select in the right page to be renamed



5.2 Using readymade options available in Album Express

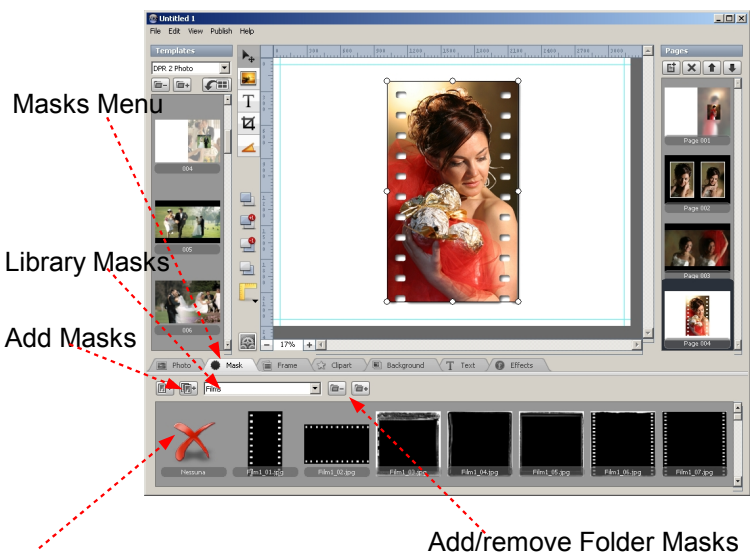
5.2.1 How to add/remove Mask to an image? To add readymade alpha to an image in the current editing Album Page,

1. Select the image by left clicking on it.

2. Click on the Mask menu.

3. As you click on the Mask button you will see the following Masks preview in the photo gallery. Choose the appropriate category of the alpha.

4. Select the desired Mask from the photo gallery and double click on it to apply to the selected Image.



Note: To remove the applied Mask from the image click on the Delete button adjacent to the Mask.

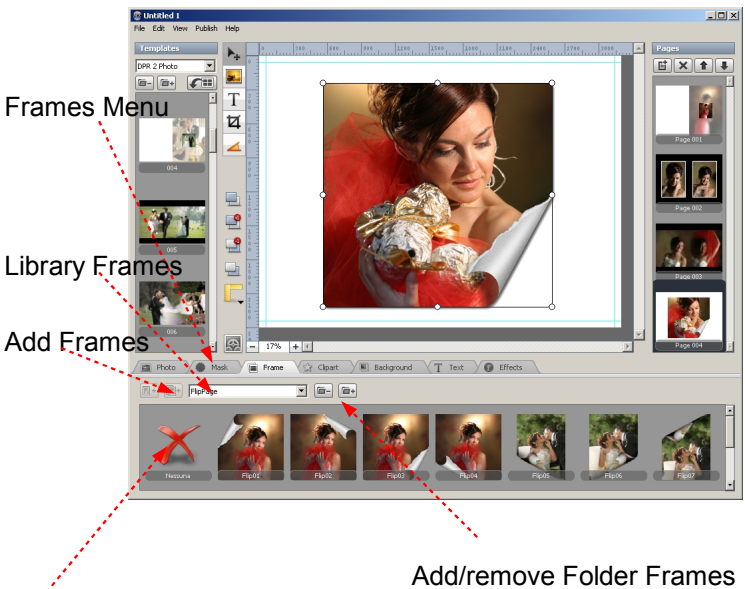
5.2.2 How to add/remove Frame to an image? To add readymade Frame to an image in the current editing Album Page,

1. Select the image by left clicking on it.

2. Click on the Frame menu.

3. As you click on the Frame button you will see the following Frame preview in the photo gallery. Choose the appropriate category of the Frame.

4. Select the desired Frame from the photo gallery and double click on it to apply to the selected Image.



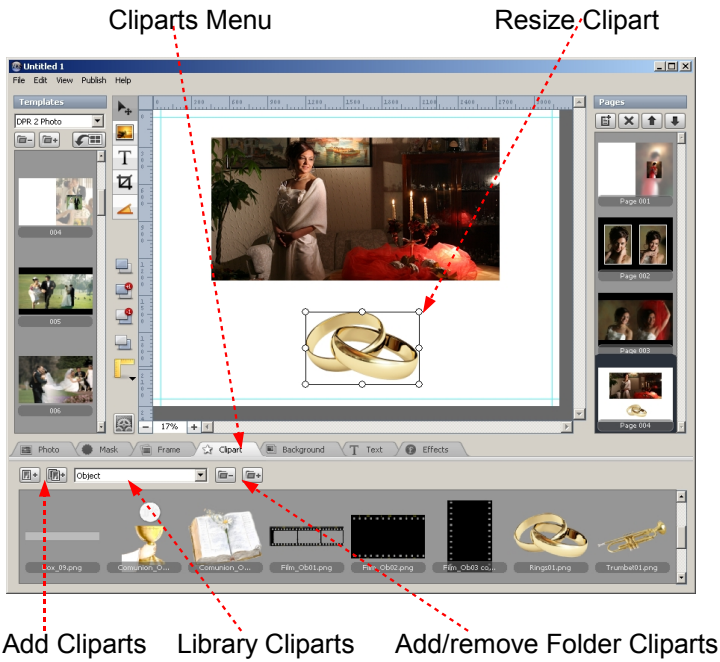
Note: To remove the applied Frame from the image click on the Delete button adjacent to the Frame.

5.2.3 How to add/remove Clipart to current editing Album Page,

1. Click on the Clipart menu.

2. As you click on the Clipart button you will see the following Cliparts preview in the photo gallery. Choose the appropriate category of the Cliparts.

3. Select the desired Clipart from the photo gallery and double click on it to apply to the template.



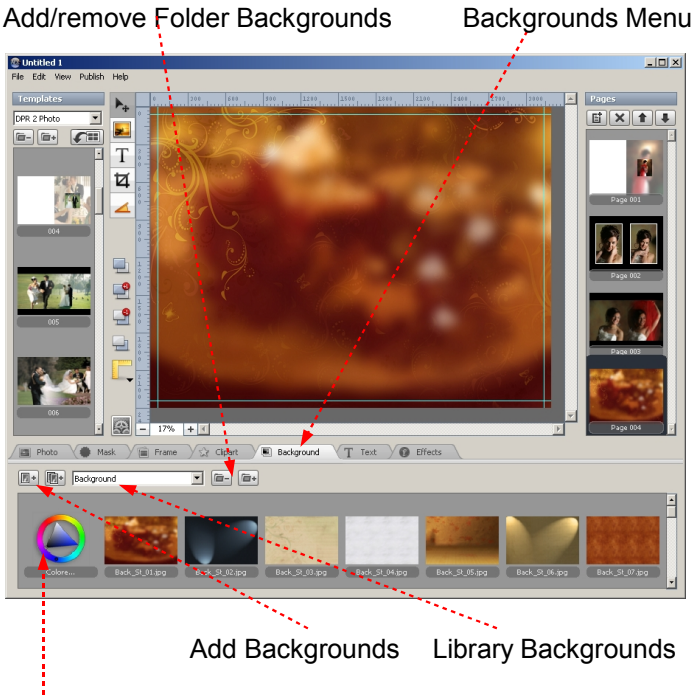
Note: To remove the applied clipart from the template click on the Cancel button to the Keyboard.

5.2.4 How to add/remove Background to current editing Album Page,

1. Click on the Background menu.

2. As you click on the Background button you will see the following Backgrounds preview in the photo gallery. Choose the appropriate category of the Backgrounds.

3. Select the desired Background from the photo gallery and double click on it to apply to the template.



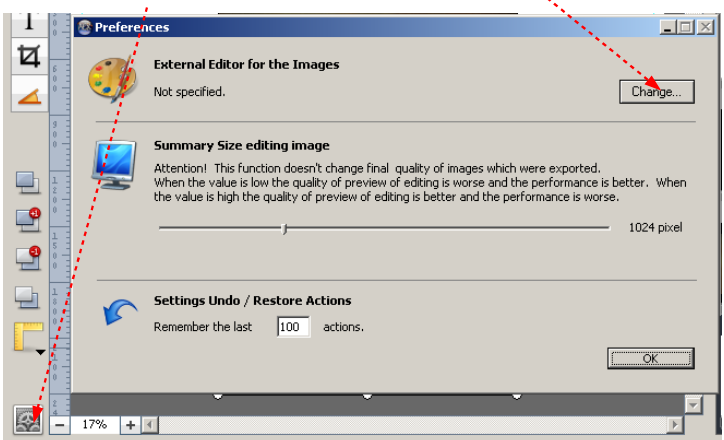
Note: To remove the applied Background from the template click on the Color button and select your color prefer.

6.0 Photo editing and enhancement with real time Photo Edit program

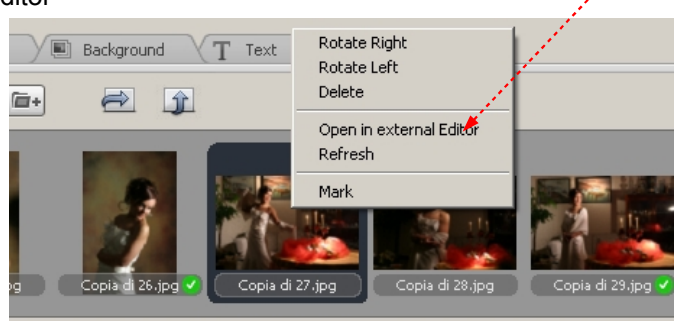
1. Click the Preference button

2. Click the Change button and select your Photo editor Application

Preference button Change button


Preferences
External Editor for the Images
Not specified.
Change...
Summary Size editing image
Attention! This function doesn't change final quality of images which were exported.
When the value is low the quality of preview of editing is worse and the performance is better. When the value is high the quality of preview of editing is better and the performance is worse.
1024 pixel
Settings Undo / Restore Actions
Remember the last 100 actions.
OK
17%

3. If you want to make same change on Photo or Mask or Frame or Clibart or Background you must click the right mouse's button on thumbnail and select Open in External Editor



7.0 Adding your own creation - Clip Arts, Frames, Alphas, Template and preparation of them for use into Album Express

7.1 Adding Clip Arts

To add your own Clip Arts in Album Express you have to mask the area, which you want to use as a clipart.

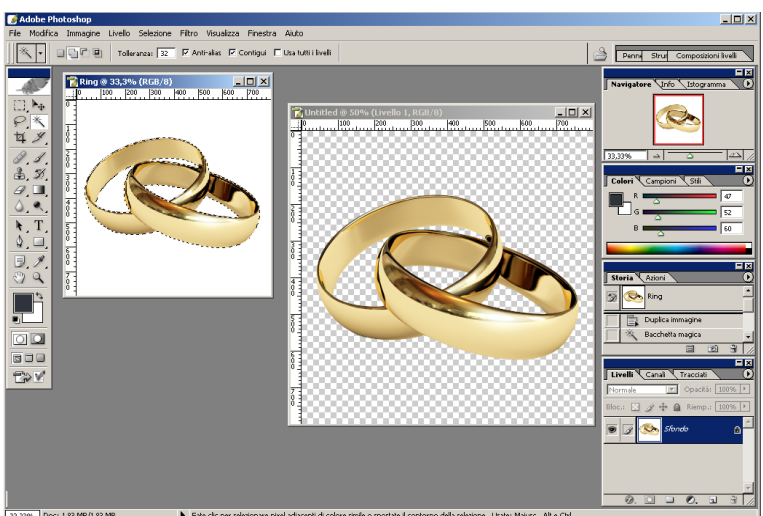
Steps to mask the area, which you want to use as a clipart in Adobe Photoshop

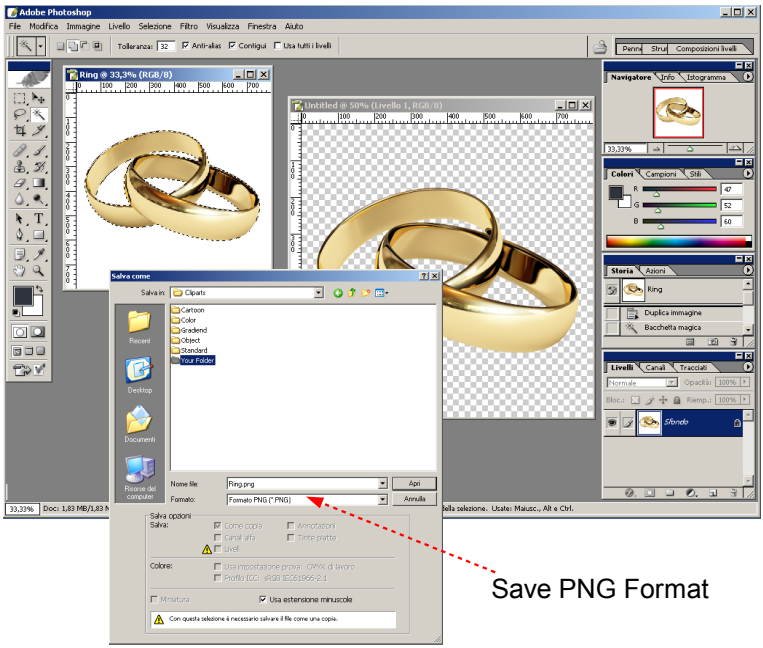
1) Open the Image or your creation, which you want to use as a clipart. 2) Select the desired area with Lasso tool.

3) Copy the selected area. (Ctrl + C)

4) Take a new canvas with a transparent background.

Set resolution 300 DPI.





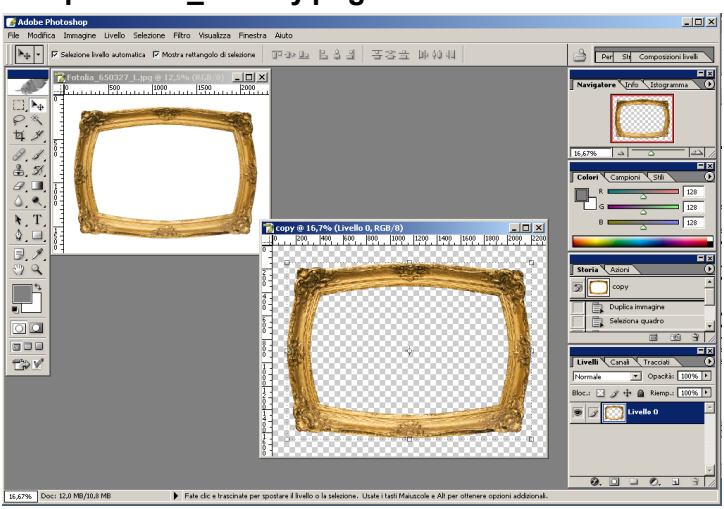
5) Paste the selected area into the new canvas. (Ctrl + V).
6) Go to Select Menu > Load Selection.
7) Click OK.
8) Apply Quick Mask. Click on the Edit in Quick Mask Mode Tool from the tool bar.
Shortcut key is Q.
9) Save the image, File menu > Save As
10) In the activated Save As Dialog box,
Save in AlbumExpress3\Clip Art\Your Folder.
Note: Save it as PNG file format and with Alpha Channels
11) Click Save.

7.2 Adding Frames

To add your own frames in Album Express you have to mask the desired frame area

Steps to mask the desired frame area in Adobe Photoshop

1) Open the desired frame or your creation.
2) Select the frame area with the help of Marquee tool.
3) Invert the selection. Select menu > Inverse. (Ctrl +Shift+I)
4) Copy the selected area. (Ctrl + C)
5) Take a new canvas with a transparent background.
Set resolution 300 DPI.
6) Paste the selected frame into the new canvas. (Ctrl + V).
7) Go to Select Menu > Load Selection.
8) Click OK.
9) Apply Quick Mask. Click on the Edit in Quick Mask Mode tool from the tool bar. Shortcut key is Q.
10) Save the image, File menu > Save As
11) In the activated Save As Dialog box, Save in **HardDisk:AlbumExpress3\Frames\SampleFrame\ Sampleframe_overlay.png**



Note: Save it as PNG file format and with Alpha Channels

12) Click Save.

Important Note: You have to also save the same frame again as JPEG,

but you have to follow the below given steps.

13) Select the Canvas with the same frame, which you have opened previously.

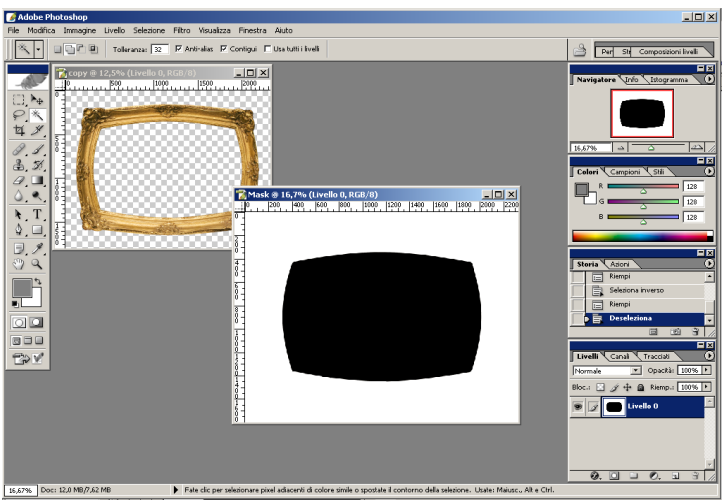
Note: You will get the previous selection.

14) Apply solid black color to the selection so that the frame is covered by the black color. (Set the foreground color, black) - Edit Menu > Fill. Foreground color

15) Save the image, File menu > Save As

16) In the activated Save As Dialog box, Save in **HardDisk:AlbumExpress3\Frames\SampleFrame\ Sampleframe_Mask.jpg**

17) Click Save.

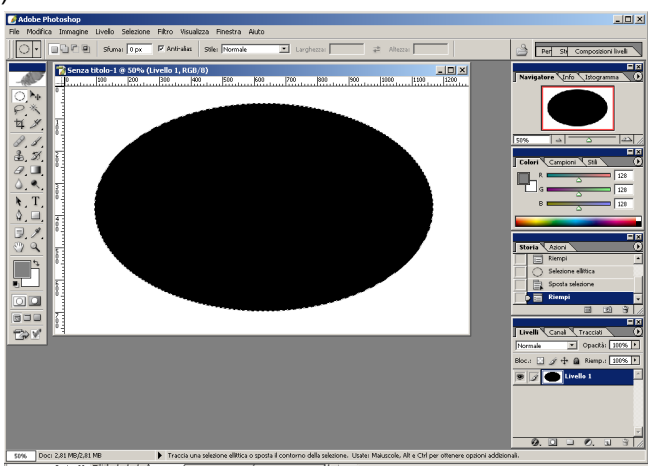


Note: Save it as JPEG file format with the same file name.

7.3 Adding Mask

To add your own Mask in Album Express you have to keep the desired portion as Black (color), where you intend the Image to appear and the border/outline of the Mask must be Wite. Steps to create an Mask in Adobe Photoshop and add it into the Album Express.

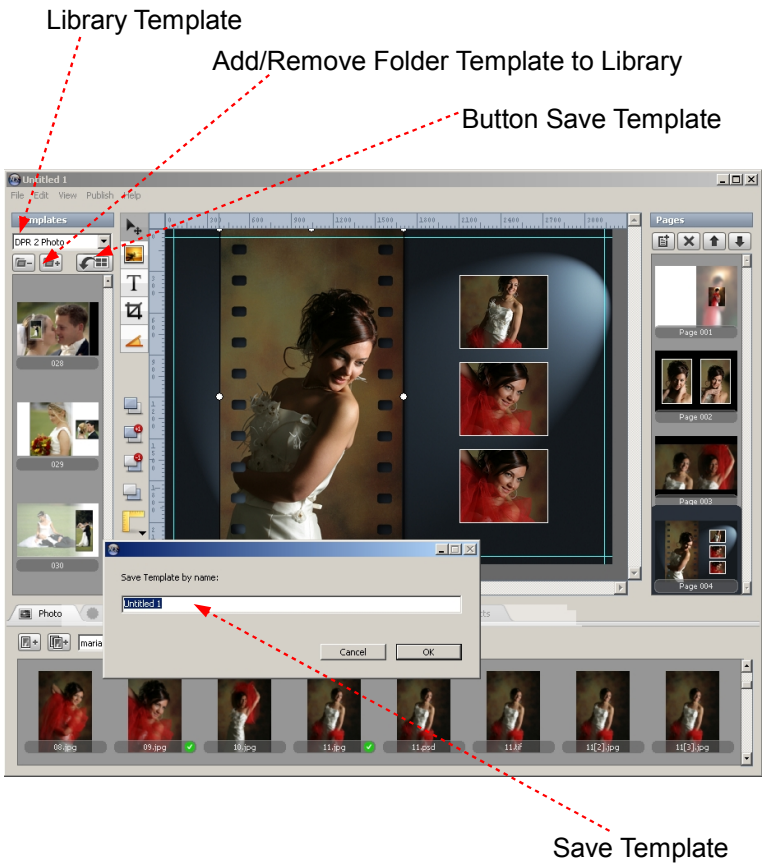
1) Open the new canvas.
Here 1500x1500 Pixels, Resolution and set Mode-Grayscale in the New Canvas dialog box and set background Black.
2) Trace an Oval in the new canvas with the Elliptical Marquee tool.
3) Invert the selection. Select Menu > Inverse (Crtl+Shift+I)
4) Apply solid black color to the selection so that the selection is filled by the Wite color. (Set the foreground color, black) - Edit Menu > Fill.
5) Save the image, File menu > Save As
6) In the activated Save As Dialog box, Save in **HardDisk:\AlbumExpress\Mask\YourFolder\Mask.jpg**
7) Click Save.



Note: Save it as JPEG file format.

7.4 Adding Template

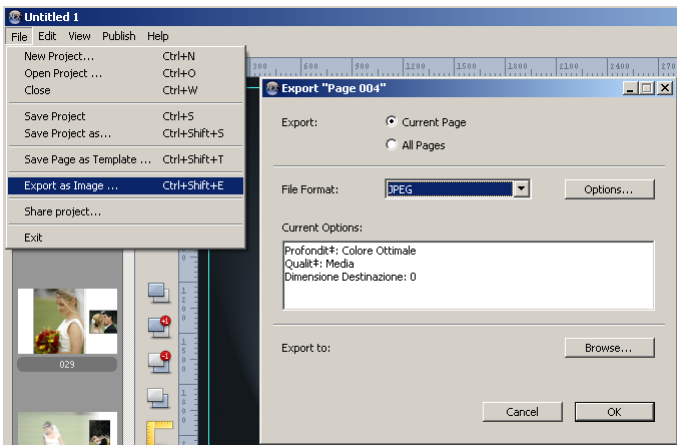
1. Create your template
2. Create a new folder Template into Library
3. Click the button Save Template
4. Save the current template with a name.



8.0 Export Album Page

8.1 Export as Image ...

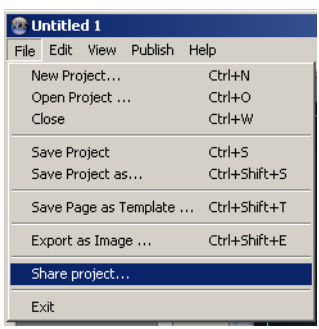
1. Select Menu File
2. Select Export as Image...
3. Select Current Page or All Page
4. Select File Format "Options for Quality"
5. Click browse for select Name file and Destination
6. Click OK for starting Rendering Process.



8.2 Share Project...

1. To share your own project which was exported you need to share the folder Export + your Project file which was created.

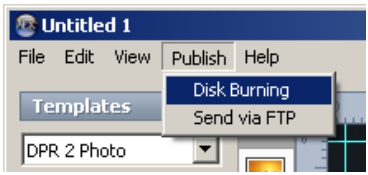
Note: This function permit you share your own project with another user Albums Express.



8.3 Publish Disk Burning / Send via FTP

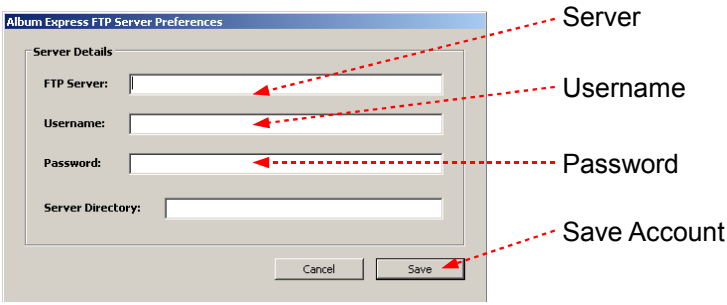
8.3.1 Disk Burning

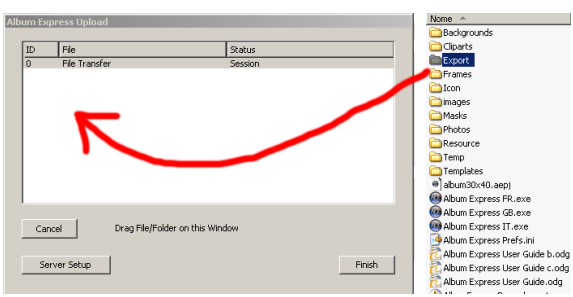
1. Select Menu Publish
2. Select Disk Burning
3. Burning your CD-DVD your album project

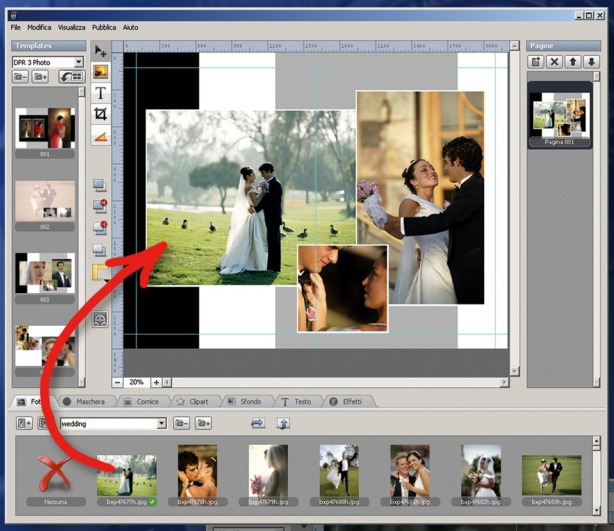


8.3.2 Send via FTP

1. Select Menu Publish
2. Select Send via FTP
3. Enter server information and press Save
4. Drag and drop your data for sending in the FTP







" Album Express 3 " can be connected with all Photographic Editor for Win and Mac: Photoshop, Lightroom, Aperture, Nik software, Corel Photo Paint, etc.

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